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### PSCI 321.01: Post - Communist Politics

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# POST-COMMUNIST POLITICS

**Instructor:** Eric H. Hines

**Office:** LA 354

**Office Hours:** T 3-4, Th 9-10 or by Appt.

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**Phone:** 406.359.1660 (Cell/Voicemail)

**Course Number:** PSCI 321

**Class Location:** LA 337

**Meeting Time:** MWF 3:10-4:00 p.m.

**Website:** Moodle (<http://umonline.umat.edu>)

**CRN (Add/Drop):** 34971

You may schedule an appointment with me online at <http://tungle.me/erichines>

## Course Description

The sudden collapse of Eurasia's communist regimes beginning in 1989 surprised the world. The 28 post-communist states continue to surprise social scientists with their remarkable divergence in political and economic development. Politically, efforts to promote democratic reform have led to outcomes ranging from swift democratic consolidation, to free elections in otherwise "illiberal democracies," to new authoritarian regimes ruled by former communists. Economically, almost all have established functioning market economies but economic development has been uneven. This range of outcomes makes postcommunist countries an ideal laboratory for testing competing theories of democratization and political development.

Students in this course will use these competing theories to analyze the long-term prospects for democratization and democratic consolidation in postcommunist states with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe. These theories predict that the success or failure of democracy hinges on the social and economic legacy of the past, economic development, the type of transition, cultural conditions, and different institutional arrangements and developments.

## Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:		This will be assessed by:
1	Explain the competing values and interests that define the unique boundaries of post-communist politics.	Midterm Exam Essay Final Exam Essay
2	Evaluate the status of postcommunist political institutions and explain institutional development using political science theory.	Final Exam Essay Final Paper
3	Compare and contrast competing ideas about communism, democracy, capitalism, and related concepts.	Midterm Exam Essay
4	Debate the role historical patterns of economic and political development affect the current state of post-communist states.	Midterm Exam Essay Final Paper
5	Assess the reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and point of view or bias of information on post-communist states.	Final Paper

## Required Materials

**Materials.** There is three required books for sale at the UC bookstore or online:

Rothschild, J., and N. M. Wingfield. 2007. *Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe Since World War II*. New York: Oxford University Press.

White, Stephan. Richard Sakwa, and Henry E. Hale. 2009. *Developments in Russian politics 7*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

White, Stephen, Judy Batt, and Paul G. Lewis. 2007. *Developments in Central and East European politics 4*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

All other required materials are available on Moodle.

### Course Requirements

The following paragraphs outline the basic requirements for this course. More detailed information on specific assignments can be found on Moodle.

**Weekly Reading Responses (100 points).** Each week on Friday, I will post a short question based on the week's readings on Moodle. Students will submit a 1-2 paragraph response to the question directly in Moodle by the following Wednesday. I will randomly select between 2-3 responses to grade and average the grades to arrive at a reading response score.

**Simulation and Debriefing Paper (300 points).** Students will engage in a simulation of the politics of regime change in the fictional country of Ruritania. After the simulation, students will write a combination debriefing paper and midterm covering communism's historical legacy and the transition to postcommunism.

**Final Paper (300 points).** Using a theoretical framework developed in the course, you will write a 10-12 page paper comparing one aspect of the political system (executive, legislature, judiciary, political parties, federalism/unitary system, etc) in at least four postcommunist and provide an explanation using economic, cultural, sociological, international, and historical factors to account for why the countries evolved in similar or different ways.

**Final Exam (300 points).** A final take-home exam covering postcommunist institutions will be due at the end of the course's schedule final exam period via Moodle.

**PSCI 400.** Political science majors may use this course with PSCI 400 to complete their upper-division writing expectation. Please speak to the instructor if interested.

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the responsibility to:

1. Attend class regularly.
2. Complete assigned readings before class.
3. Complete assignments by their deadlines.
4. Inform the instructor beforehand of any reasons why they are unable to do this.
5. Complete all requirements within the time frame of the semester. University policy on incompletes will be strictly enforced.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code, which is available for review online at: <http://life.umn.edu/VPSSA/name/StudentConductCode>.

**STATEMENT ON DISABILITIES:**

I encourage students with documented disabilities to discuss appropriate accommodations with me. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, please present me with a letter from Disability Services for Students (DSS), Lommasson Center 154 (243-2243), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations.

**GRADING**

Final grades are based on a 1000-pt scale with points distributed between weekly responses(100), debriefing paper (300), final exam (300), and final paper (300).

Scale: A = 100-93%, A- = 92.9-90%, B+ = 89.9-87%, B = 86.9-83%, B- = 82.9-80% C+ = 79.9-77%, C = 76.9-73%, C- = , D+ = 69.9-67%, D = 66.9-63%, D- = 62.9-60%, F = < 60%

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

I reserve the right to make changes to this course schedule. Any changes will be posted to Moodle and distributed to students via email. The textbooks are marked by a word from their title. Additional materials marked with an (M) are available on Moodle.

Date	Topic	Assignment
1/23	Introduction; Distribution of Syllabus	
1/25	Puzzle: The Quality of Post-Communist Democracy	<i>Central</i> , Ch. 16
1/27	Framework: Communism	Marx and Engel, Lenin
1/30	Framework: Postcommunism	Holmes (1997); Clark (2002) - (M)
2/1	Framework: Democracy	Dahl (1998) - (M)
2/3	Framework: Democratization	Welzel (2008) - (M)
2/6	Special Focus: Communism in Russia	Sakwa, Ch. 1; Hoffmann (1984) - (M)
2/8	Historical Legacy: The Interwar Years	<i>Return</i> , Ch. 1
2/10	Historical Legacy: World War II	<i>Return</i> , Ch. 2
2/13	Historical Legacy: Communism Spreads	<i>Return</i> , Ch. 3, pgs. 61-83
2/15	Historical Legacy: Communism Spreads, Part II	<i>Return</i> , Ch. 3, pgs. 83-99
2/17	Historical Legacy: Stalin vs. Tito	<i>Return</i> , Ch. 4
2/20	<b>President's Day -- No Class</b>	
2/22	Historical Legacy: Revenge of the Repressed	<i>Return</i> , Ch. 5
2/24	Historical Legacy: A Precarious Stalemate	<i>Return</i> , Ch. 6

Date	Topic	Assignment
2/27	Democratic Transition, Part I	<i>Return</i> , Ch. 7, pgs. 181-195
2/29	Democratic Transition, Part II	<i>Return</i> , Ch. 7, pgs. 195-209
3/2	Special Focus: The End of the Soviet Union	Sakwa, Ch. 2 - (M)
3/5	Economic Transition	<i>Central</i> , Ch. 15; <i>Russian</i> , Ch. 11
3/7	Special Focus: The Role of the EU	<i>Central</i> , Ch. 7
3/9	Special Focus: Hungary	Readings TBD - (M)
3/12	<i>Ruritania Simulation</i>	
3/14	<i>Ruritania Simulation</i>	
3/16	<i>Ruritania Simulation</i>	
3/19	Political Culture	Schöpflin (1990) - (M)
3/21	Special Focus: Postcommunist Public Opinion	Rose (2009), Chs. 2, 11, 16 & 17 - (M)
3/23	Civil Society: Central and Eastern Europe	<i>Central</i> , Ch. 13
3/26	Civil Society: Russia	<i>Russian</i> , Ch. 6
3/28	Institutions: Constitutions	<i>Central</i> , Ch. 14
3/30	Institutions: Executives I	<i>Central</i> , Ch. 8
	Spring Break	
4/9	Institutions: Executives II	<i>Russian</i> , Ch. 2
4/11	Institutions: Parliaments I	<i>Central</i> , Ch. 9
4/13	Institutions: Parliaments II	<i>Russian</i> , Ch. 3
4/16	Institutions: Elections I	<i>Central</i> , Ch. 10
4/18	Institutions: Elections II	<i>Russian</i> , Ch. 4
4/20	Institutions: Political Parties I	<i>Central</i> , Ch. 11
4/23	Institutions: Political Parties II	<i>Russian</i> , Ch. 5
4/25	Institutions: Judiciary	<u>Smithey and Ishiyama (2002)</u> - (M)
4/27	Institutions: Federalism	<i>Russian</i> , Chs. 9-10
4/30	Special Focus: Russian Foreign Policy	<i>Russian</i> , Ch. 13
5/2	Special Focus: Russian Social Policy	<i>Russian</i> , Ch. 12
5/4	Conclusions	<b>Final Paper Due @ 11:55 pm (M)</b>
5/10	<b>Final Exam: Submitted online in lieu of in-class Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam Due @ 5:20 p.m. (M)</b>